General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 January 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 80

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/55/566)*]

55/40. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and forty-three States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] including all of the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[2] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation and the related provisions of the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint,[3] the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention held from 19 to 30 September 1994,[4] and the final documents of the Review Conferences,

Welcoming the reaffirmation made in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference[5] that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological

[1] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.
[2] BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.
[3] BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/9 and Corr.1.
[4] BWC/SPCONF/1.
[5] BWC/CONF.IV/9, part II.

(biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,

Recalling its resolution 49/86, adopted without a vote on 15 December 1994, in which it welcomed the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994,[4] in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to all States parties, whose objective should be to consider appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention, to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States parties,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] reaffirms the call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

2. *Welcomes* the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[2]

3. *Welcomes also* the progress achieved so far in the negotiation of a protocol to strengthen the Convention, and reaffirms the decision of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention urging the conclusion of the negotiations by the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference and urging it to submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States parties for consideration at a Special Conference;

4. *Calls upon* all States parties, in this context, to accelerate the negotiations, and to redouble their efforts within the Ad Hoc Group to formulate an efficient, cost-effective and practical regime and to seek early resolution of the outstanding issues through renewed flexibility in order to complete the protocol in accordance with the decision of the Fourth Review Conference;

5. *Notes* that, at the request of the States parties, the Fifth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention will be held at Geneva from 19 November to 7 December 2001, and that, after appropriate consultation, a Preparatory Committee for that Conference, open to all States parties to the Convention, was established and will meet at Geneva from 25 to 27 April 2001;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention, to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, as well as the decisions contained in the final report of the 1994 Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention,[4] including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group and the Special Conference, which is to consider the report of the Ad Hoc Group, in accordance with its mandate, as confirmed by the Fourth Review Conference, and to render the

necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the Fifth Review Conference and the preparations for it;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

69th plenary meeting
20 November 2000